

## Clean Air Act at Texas A&M



### Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act (CAA) is a comprehensive federal law regulating air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. The law requires Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and welfare, while regulating emissions of hazardous air pollutants. The CAA is designed to make businesses responsible for taking necessary actions to ensure there are no adverse effects on the local air quality. An adverse environmental effect could be any significant or widespread impact on human health, natural resources, or wildlife. The five basic goals of the CAA are:

1. Control ambient concentrations of criteria pollutants
2. Limit exposure to Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) emissions
3. Protect and improve visibility in important natural areas
4. Reduce emissions of pollutants that cause acid rain
5. Curb the use of chemicals that deplete stratospheric ozone.

### Title V Air Permit

The Title V Permit is a regulating document submitted to the state to aid in CAA goal attainment. The permit has a five year renewal period where the business must demonstrate their compliance with the requirements by reporting their annual air emissions to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The business is required to monitor all of their air emissions by keeping records ensuring they fall within emission limits.

A business is required to have a Title V Air Permit if one or more of the following conditions apply to their facility:

1. A facility's major source emits HAPs equal or above the major source threshold of 100 tons per year. A major source is defined as any emission point that emits at least 10 tons of any particular HAP per year, or more than 25 tons of any combination of HAPs per year. The permit also applies if your sources emit more than 50 tons per year of volatile organic compounds or nitrogen oxides.
2. Any of the facility emissions are subject to New Source Performance Standards (NSHAPS), or chemical accident prevention provisions.
3. Any of the facility's affected sources – of any size – are subject to federal acid rain regulations.
4. If you use any solid waste incinerator that is subject to Section 129 (e) of the CAA. These incinerators have the capacity to burn more than 35 Mg per day of residential or commercial waste.
5. If a facility's sources emit more than 100,000 carbon dioxide equivalent tons of greenhouse gases per year.

For more accurate monitoring, the regulating agency may require the facility to implement a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS).

The CEMS unit will measure and record different parameters. Once such ability of a CEMS unit is to determine if data provided indicates a complete burn or destruction of material.

Texas A&M University maintains three Title V permits. As mentioned previously,

### Title V and Texas A&M

Title V permits have a five year renewal cycle. It so happens all three are slated for renewal in 2017. These permits encompass many point source permits and require Texas A&M to self-report any instances of deviation. Reports must be submitted every six months and permit compliance must be certified annually. Annual certification may be obtained in many ways. Units such as CEMS aid companies in maintaining compliances with identified pollutants by monitoring and data collection. Another is Relative Accuracy Test Audit or RATA. All monitoring, required testing and reporting are specified within the issued permit as directed by state or federal guidelines.

For more information on Texas A&M's Title V Permit and requirements, contact Environmental Health & Safety at 979-845-2132.

For general TCEQ and EPA Clean Air Act information, please see the following resources:

- [TCEQ's Title V Air Operating Permit](#)
- [EPA's CAA Overview](#)

